

5753
12/11/09

Macedonia Update

December 2009

EU Delays Decision on Opening Macedonia Accession Talks

Earlier this week, the EU Council of Ministers announced that they would delay the decision on a start date for Macedonia accession talks, despite the October recommendation of the European Commission that the EU commence negotiations. Macedonia has met all criteria to begin talks, but Greece has demanded a resolution to the name negotiations before it will give its approval. Macedonia remains fully committed to the UN-led name negotiations and is working toward a reasonable compromise.

Article: [EU Defers Macedonia Talks Decision Until 2010](#)

Link to: [Council conclusions on enlargement/stabilization and association process](#)

Macedonia Pledges an Additional 80 Troops for Afghanistan

In the wake of President Obama's request for additional troops in Afghanistan, Macedonia has reaffirmed its commitment to the NATO-led operation by pledging an additional 80 troops to be deployed in February. Macedonia has participated in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan since 2002, and this next deployment will raise their presence to 250 troops.

Article: [Macedonia to Send More Troops to Afghanistan](#)

EU Visa Liberalization set for December 19

Last Week, the EU announced that Macedonian citizens will be able to travel freely throughout the Schengen visa area, which includes almost 30 European countries. Macedonian citizens carrying biometric passports will be able to travel without a visa to Schengen countries for up to three months at a time. This marks an important step in Macedonia's path to EU integration.

Article: [MoFA welcomes elimination of Schengen visa barrier for Macedonia](#)

Boston University to Offer Graduate Program in Skopje

In January, Boston University will launch an information technology graduate program in Macedonia's capital city. The program's e-Live format will offer an innovative combination multimedia education and face-to-face class sessions with Boston University faculty. This initiative is one of many that Prime Minister Gruevski has undertaken to improve education opportunities for Macedonian citizens.

Link to: [Program Website](#)

Disclaimer: This material is circulated by Quinn Gillespie & Associates, 1133 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., 5th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036, on behalf of the Republic of Macedonia. Quinn Gillespie & Associates is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., as an agent for the Republic of Macedonia. Copies of this material are filed with the Department of Justice where the required registration statement and additional materials are available for public inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the content of this material by the U.S. Government.

###

Macedonia Update

December 2009

EU Delays Decision on Opening Macedonia Accession Talks

Earlier this week, the EU Council of Ministers announced that they would delay the decision on a start date for Macedonia accession talks, despite the October recommendation of the European Commission that the EU commence negotiations. Macedonia has met all criteria to begin talks, but Greece has demanded a resolution to the name negotiations before it will give its approval. Macedonia remains fully committed to the UN-led name negotiations and is working toward a reasonable compromise.

Article: [*EU Defers Macedonia Talks Decision Until 2010*](#)

Link to: [*Council conclusions on enlargement/stabilization and association process*](#)

Macedonia Pledges an Additional 80 Troops for Afghanistan

In the wake of President Obama's request for additional troops in Afghanistan, Macedonia has reaffirmed its commitment to the NATO-led operation by pledging an additional 80 troops to be deployed in February. Macedonia has participated in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan since 2002, and this next deployment will raise their presence to 250 troops.

Article: [*Macedonia to Send More Troops to Afghanistan*](#)

EU Visa Liberalization set for December 19

Last Week, the EU announced that Macedonian citizens will be able to travel freely throughout the Schengen visa area, which includes almost 30 European countries. Macedonian citizens carrying biometric passports will be able to travel without a visa to Schengen countries for up to three months at a time. This marks an important step in Macedonia's path to EU integration.

Article: [*MoFA welcomes elimination of Schengen visa barrier for Macedonia*](#)

Boston University to Offer Graduate Program in Skopje

In January, Boston University will launch an information technology graduate program in Macedonia's capital city. The program's e-Live format will offer an innovative combination multimedia education and face-to-face class sessions with Boston University faculty. This initiative is one of many that Prime Minister Gruevski has undertaken to improve education opportunities for Macedonian citizens.

Link to: [*Program Website*](#)

Disclaimer: This material is circulated by Quinn Gillespie & Associates, 1133 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., 5th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036, on behalf of the Republic of Macedonia. Quinn Gillespie & Associates is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., as an agent for the Republic of Macedonia. Copies of this material are filed with the Department of Justice where the required registration statement and additional materials are available for public inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the content of this material by the U.S. Government.

###